

REMARKS

The Office Action of October 4, 2007 has been received and its contents carefully considered. An RCE is being filed concurrently to permit further prosecution.

The present Amendment cancels dependent claim 9, and transfers its subject matter to claim 1. In addition, the Amendment revises claim 1 to assert that the “attributes” pertained to “features that can be numerically measured or quantified.” This is supported (for example) by Figure 3 of the application’s drawings, which shows an example of an attribute dictionary.

The present Amendment also adds new dependent claims 10-16 to further protect the invention. New claims 10-14 further specify the “attributes,” the “basic units of measurement,” and so forth, and are supported (for example) by Figures 3 and 4 of the application’s drawings. New claims 15 and 16 further specify the nature of the “record” in which the “incomplete numerical expression” appears. In claim 15, the incomplete numerical expression appears in a “final record” and in claim 16 it appears in the record in “a sentence that has been finalized” (in contrast to Miller et al, patent 5,896,321, in which suggestions for completing a word are provided as the word is being typed).

The Office Action rejects the claims for obviousness based on Miller et al (which will hereafter be called simply “Miller”) and Ikeno, and takes the position that most of what is recited in claim 1 (the sole independent claim in this application) is disclosed in Miller when the claim language is interpreted broadly. For the reasons discussed below, though, it is respectfully submitted that the invention now defined by claim 1 is patentable over the references.

Claim 1 now specifies the “incomplete numerical expression” includes “a prefix for a basic unit of measurement without the basic unit of measurement itself.” At the bottom of page 2, the Office Action takes the position that a “numerical expression” is found in Miller when “numerical expression” is interpreted as Miller’s “score” or “value.” However, the passage in Miller that is cited in the Office Action in support of this allegation refers to scores for possible words that an operator might select for completing a word that the operator is typing. The score assigned to a word that might be selected to complete what is being typed is not a numerical expression (incomplete or otherwise) that is contained in a record that has been input.

At the bottom of page 6, the Office Action rejects claim 9 (now incorporated into claim 1) on the ground that, when broadly interpreted, a “unit of measurement” is equivalent to any other term stored in a dictionary. While it is appropriate to interpret claim language as broadly as is reasonably possible during prosecution, it is respectfully submitted that interpreting a “unit of measurement” as being equivalent to any other term stored in the dictionary goes beyond what is reasonable. Meaning cannot be entirely expunged from claim language under the pretext of interpreting the claim language broadly.

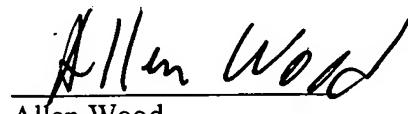
Claim 1 provides that an incomplete numerical expression in a record is completed by adding a basic unit of measurement to a prefix in the imputed record. Despite the Office Action’s heavy reliance of the Miller reference, Miller’s arrangement for presenting candidates for words as they are being typed cannot determine whether an already-typed sentence with “kilos” in it refer to kilograms or kilometers.

As was noted previously, claim 1 now provides that the "attributes" that are stored by the "attribute dictionary" pertain to "features that can be numerically measured or quantified." On page 7, the Office Action takes the position that Miller's dictionaries 304 and 306 represent an attribute dictionary, along with a "co-occurrence word dictionary" that is recited in claim 1. However, neither Miller's dictionary 304, nor his dictionary 306 stores attributes pertaining to features that can be numerically measured or quantified, and then relies on such attributes and attribute names in order to add basic units of measurement to incomplete numerical expressions.

Since the remaining claims depend from claim 1 and recite additional limitations to further define the invention, they are automatically patentable along with claim 1 and need not be further discussed.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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